GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2257
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
PENDING APPLICATIONS FOR FIELD TRIALS
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of applications pending for field trials with the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in view of the stay of the Supreme Court;

(b) whether Supreme Court has given permission for four new species of Bt. Cotton for commercial production;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Supreme Court has put certain conditions with regard to field trials of the transgenic crops; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has not passed any embargo for conduct of field trials with GM crops. As of date no application is pending consideration of the GEAC.

(b & c). The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee during the period 2002-2006 have approved the commercial release of Bt cotton varieties expressing 4 gene events namely, cry 1Ac (MON 531 event), cry 1Ac and cry 2Ab (MON 15985) gene, cry 1Ac event 1 and cry 1Ab + cry 1Ac GFM . The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 8.5.2007 has given permission for commercial production of the Bt cotton varieties already under commercial cultivation.

(d & e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 8.5.2007 has approved the field trials of GM crops subject to the following conditions:

1. All trials should have a lead scientist's name with contact details who would be responsible for all aspects of the trials including regulatory requirements.
2. An isolation distance of 200 m would be maintained during field trials.
3. Prior to bringing out the GM material from the green house for conduct of open field trial the Company should submit a validated event specific test protocol at an LOD of at least 0.01% to detect and confirm that there has been no contamination.